

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#8/Election

10-22-03

L. Spruell

Applicant(s) : Akira Hara et al.

Serial No. : 09/836,786

Group Art Unit: 2854

Filed : April 17, 2001

Examiner: Eugene H. Eickholt

For : **A CYLINDER CLEANING DEVICE AND CYLINDER CLEANING
FABRIC USED THEREFOR**

Mail Stop _____
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated August 1., 2003 requiring an election of species, Applicant respectfully submits the following response, and the enclosed one month petition and fee to extend the response date to September 30, 2003:

I. The Examiner's Election Requirement

The Examiner has noted that this application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct sub-combinations of the claimed invention:

Sub Group A Groups A1-A25, drawn to a take-up shaft and Figures 1-100.

Sub Group B Groups B1-B4, drawn to a coupling bar and Figures 51, 56-60.

Sub Group C Groups C1-C10, drawn to cleaning fabric embodiments and Figures 63, 72-74F.

Sub Group D Groups D1-D4, drawn to fabric mounting elements and Figures 64-66, 69A-69C.

Sub Group E Groups E1-E13, drawn to fabric engagement elements and Figures 73, 75-87.

Sub Group F Groups F1-F3, drawn to tool disengagement embodiments and Figures 88-89 and 92-94.

Accordingly, the Examiner has required Applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution. No claims were noted by the Examiner as generic.

II. Applicants' Election of Species

Applicants elect with traverse to pursue prosecution of the species corresponding to Group A24 and A25, Figs 97A-E and Figs 98-100 set forth in claims 1 to 9. If a solitary group is required to be selected, the Applicants provisionally elect Group A 24, Figures 97A-97E that are set forth in Claims 1 to 9. Should any of these claims be found generic and allowed, it is noted that the Applicant is entitled to a reasonable number of species.

III. Applicants' Traversal

This election is made with traverse. Applicants respectfully submit that: (1) all groups of claims are properly presented in the same application; (2) undue diverse searching should not be required since all the claims are in the same class; and (3) all claims should be examined together. For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the election requirement should be withdrawn and an action on the merits of all the claims is respectfully solicited.

If any issues exist, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (212) 415-8705.

AUTHORIZATION

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for this response to Deposit Account **13-4500**, Order No. **2000-4007US1**, and is hereby petitioned for any extension of time that may be required to make this response timely. **A DUPLICATE OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.**

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Date: SEPT. 29, 2003

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